



# M E D I A   R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 17, 2008

CONTACT:

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## **TENNESSEE RECEIVES \$1.3 MILLION TO HELP CITIZENS PAY UTILITY BILLS** *FEDERAL DOLLARS ALLOCATED IN ANTICIPATION OF COLD WINTER MONTHS*

NASHVILLE --The Tennessee Department of Human Services will be increasing the budgets of local social services agencies that provide heating and cooling assistance to low income families. Congress today released \$121 million for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Tennessee's share is \$1.32 million. The emergency aid was approved in anticipation of higher heating fuel costs this season. The benefits will be made available this winter through the local LIHEAP agency.

"Heating and cooling your home isn't easy for lot of Tennesseans, especially when you may have to choose between groceries or gas or the electric bill," said Human Services Commissioner Virginia T. Lodge. "Every little bit helps, and this assistance will go a long way toward keeping some of the state's most vulnerable individuals warm and safe."

Nineteen community agencies administer the program across all 95 counties in Tennessee. LIHEAP is 100% federally funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Eligibility for LIHEAP benefits is based on established federal poverty guidelines, and documentation of household income is required. Tennesseans whose household income does not exceed 125 percent of federal poverty guidelines (that's \$26,500/year for a family of four) are potentially eligible for the program.

The assistance does not go directly to the client. Instead, it is made in the form of a payment to the utility company or home energy provider. If eligible, the client could receive up to two payments a year.

More than 80,000 Tennessee families are assisted each year through the LIHEAP program.

For more information about the Department of Human Services and its programs, please click on the following link: <http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv>

For a listing of LIHEAP agencies and contact numbers across the state, see the following page:

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CITIZENS PLAZA, 15TH FLOOR  
400 DEADERICK STREET  
NASHVILLE, TN 37248  
615.313.4700

<b>Community Service Agency Name</b>	<b>Agency Telephone Number</b>
Blount County Community Action Agency	865-983-8411
Bradley-Cleveland Community Services Agency	423-479-4111
Chattanooga Human Services Dept.	423-757-5551
Clarksville-Montgomery County Community Action Agency	931-648-5774
Delta Human Resource Agency (serving Fayette, Tipton & Lauderdale Counties)	901-476-5226
Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority, Inc. (serving Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Monroe & Sevier Counties)	423-587-4500
East Tennessee Human Resources Agency (serving Anderson, Claiborne, Morgan, Campbell, Scott & Union Counties)	865-691-2551
Highland Rim Economic Corporation (serving Dickson, Stewart, Houston & Humphreys Counties)	931-289-4101
Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee	865-546-3500
Metropolitan Action Commission (Davidson County)	615-862-8860
Mid-Cumberland Community Action Agency (serving Cheatham, Sumner, Trousdale, Rutherford, Robertson, Wilson & Williamson Counties)	615-742-1113 or 615-453-2243
Mid-East Community Action Agency (serving Loudon & Roane Counties)	865-354-0450
Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council (serving Benton, Carroll, Crockett, Dyer, Henry, Lake, Gibson & Obion Counties)	731-364-3228
Shelby County Community Services Agency	901-545-4630
South Central Human Resource Agency (serving Bedford, Coffee, Giles, Lewis, Lincoln, Wayne, Franklin, Maury, Perry, Lawrence, Marshall, Hickman & Moore Counties)	931-433-7182
Southeast Tennessee Human Resource Agency (serving Bledsoe, Grundy, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Polk, Rhea & Sequatchie Counties)	423-949-2191
Southwest Human Resource Agency (serving Chester, Decatur, Hardin, Hardeman, Haywood, Henderson, Madison & McNairy Counties)	731-989-5111
Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency (serving Cannon, Cumberland, Dekalb, Fentress, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Warren, White, Van Buren, Clay, Jackson, Macon & Smith Counties)	931-528-1127
Upper East Tennessee Human Development Agency (serving Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson Unicoi, Sullivan & Washington Counties)	423-246-6180

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